



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,  
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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## THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.*]

DEAR READERS,—I have found the following passage in Maeterlinck's *La Sagesse et la Destinée* suggestive and perhaps profitable. It may perhaps arrest the attention of some mothers who do more than they can.

EDITOR.

"Evitons d'agir comme ce gardien du phare de la légende, qui distribuait aux pauvres des cabanes voisines l'huile des grandes lanternes qui devaient éclairer l'océan. Toute âme, dans son milieu, est gardienne d'un phare plus ou moins nécessaire. La mère la plus humble qui se laisse attrister, absorber, anéantir tout entière par les plus étroits de ses devoirs de mère, donne son huile aux pauvres, et ses enfants souffriront toute leur vie que l'âme de leur mère n'ait pas été aussi claire qu'elle eût pu l'être. La force immatérielle qui luit dans notre cœur doit luire avant tout pour elle-même. Ce n'est qu'à ce prix là qu'elle luirra pour les autres. Si petite que soit votre lampe, ne donnez jamais l'huile qui l'alimente, mais la flamme qui la couronne."

DEAR EDITOR,—I believe that all parents will be interested in Dr. Lewis'\* thoughtful and wise remarks on the laws of health, and the reasons why it is so important to regulate the food of children in order that the brain, which is so intimately connected with the well-being of the body, should be nourished and strengthened by the simple and nutritious food required for the physical growth of the child. I heartily commend his pamphlet to the notice of all who have to do with the education of children.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. PEROWNE.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have been inquiring in vain for the name and address of any member of the P.N.E.U. in Dover. I want to send two children of seven and nine (boy and girl) to a congenial day school in that town carried out on broad lines. Should this meet the eye of a reader who can give any advice or assistance it would be a great kindness to communicate with

Yours truly,

C. E. POWELL.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have been much interested in one of the articles in the *Parents' Review*, to the effect that the neglected children get on best. Why?

I am trying an experiment of the kind on my youngest child, thirteen, leaving her a good deal to herself; the result being that she is always in mischief, being a character incapable of ruling herself. It seems to me that some children can be trusted to educate themselves, and some cannot. I should like to know the experience of other mothers on this point.

Yours faithfully,

R. C.

\* *Some Health Aspects of Education*, by Dr. Percy Lewis (The Scientific Press, Southampton Street, Strand).

DEAR EDITOR,—Will you kindly let me mention in your paper the Art masters, but without success. But the schoolroom can now be decorated

DEAR EDITOR,—The *Spectator* bishop of Canterbury's recent and approves of his contention that are too long shorten them, but which complete mental rest. The writer of still exist in our educational urge, the teaching itself is often necessary attention is necessary to anything for more than an hour. regulate work by capacities which is the question of learning by heart a every school is a mere machine, which it deals.

This article was followed by a letter, very strongly in favour of it, and in my opinion it is most valuable in its effects on the discussion.

There are also letters on the alleged as a duel between Mr. Paget and Mr. Haileybury.

I note also Professor Percy G. Sonnenchein in the *Nineteenth Century* December 24th.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG  
To whom all Hon. Local Secs. are  
matters of interest connected  
of any prospectuses or other papers.

NEW BR  
The Executive Committee has been  
branches in the following places:-  
BRADFORD,  
MANCHESTER,  
DARLINGTON,  
VOL. X.—No. 2.

DEAR EDITOR,—Will you kindly allow me to thank I. B. S. Thompson for mentioning in your paper the Art for Schools Association. For a long time I have tried to get photographs of the works of some of the old masters, but without success. But thanks to your correspondent the walls of our schoolroom can now be decorated in a quite satisfying manner.

A. M.

DEAR EDITOR,—The *Spectator* of December 31st comments on the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent address on the subject of holidays, and approves of his contention that to be really beneficial they should be entirely unspoiled by work. Holiday tasks are a mistake. If holidays are too long shorten them, but whilst they last let them be a period of complete mental rest. The writer proceeds to point out various defects that still exist in our educational system:—"The classes are still too large, the teaching itself is often needlessly dull, the times during which strict attention is necessary are too long—we doubt if anybody attends fully to anything for more than an hour on end—and there is a failure to regulate work by capacities which is most disastrous." He also discusses the question of learning by heart and of competition, complaining that every school is a mere machine, which treats alike all the material with which it deals.

This article was followed by a letter from Mr. Wm. Marriott. of Tonbridge, very strongly in favour of learning by heart, an exercise which he maintains, and in my opinion rightly, is suited to most boys, and is most valuable in its effects on taste, style, scholarship and power of expression.

There are also letters on the alleged Want of Pity in Children, and in the *Times* the correspondence on the Training of Teachers is continued, chiefly as a duel between Mr. Page, of Charterhouse, and the Headmaster of Haileybury.

I note also Professor Percy Gardner's Impressions of American Universities in the *Nineteenth Century* for January, and a letter by Mr. Sonnenschein on "Examination Evils" in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of December 24th.

PATER JUNIOR.

### P.N.E.U. NOTES.

*Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, Sec., 28, Victoria Street, S.W.*

*To whom all Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.*

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The Executive Committee has been approached with a view to starting Branches in the following places:—

BRADFORD.

MANCHESTER.

DARLINGTON.

VOL. X.—NO. 2.